



Geronimo Stilton

















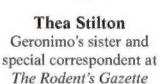








Geronimo Stilton A learned and brainy mouse: editor of The Rodent's Gazette









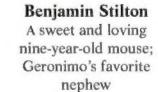






Trap Stilton An awful joker: Geronimo's cousin and owner of the store Cheap Junk for Less





















Geronimo Stilton

FIELD TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS



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www.geronimostilton.com

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OH, HOW I HATE BEING LATE!

"Rain, rain, go away." It was the middle of the night. I was in my comfy, cozy bed, trying to sleep. But the rain was beating on my window like a crazed woodpecker.

I fell asleep dreaming about birds and pounding ocean waves and huge crashing waterfalls.

It rained the whole night. The next morning, I woke up exhausted. I stared at



the clock on my bedside table. Holey cheese! I was late! Oh, how I hate being late!

I hurled myself into the bathroom. I turned on the shower while brushing my teeth. I combed my whiskers while pulling on my pants. I chugged down my coffee while racing out the door. Rats!

I ran at BREAKNECK SPEED to my aunt Sweetfur's house. That is where my little nephew Benjamin lives. I had promised to take him to school today.

Benjamin giggled when he saw me. I had forgotten to button my pants. And my fur was sticking up all over the place.

On the way to school, we passed by my office. I run the most FAMOUSE daily

newspaper on Mouse Island. It



combed my whiskers
while pulling on
my pants!

racing out
the door!



Benjamin tugged on my paw. "Uncle, may I take my friends to visit you at the *Gazette* sometime?" he asked.

I stilled. My nephew was such a sweet and smart little mouse. Maybe someday he would follow in my pawsteps and run a newspaper, too.

"Of course, dear nephew," I said.

Finally, we arrived at Benjamin's school.

WHAT A ZOO! Little rodents were running everywhere. Some held on to their parents' paws. Others tumbled off the school bus. Some zipped up on bicycles. It was so loud I could barely hear myself squeak.



Just then, the school bell rang. Recent in the school bell rang. I nearly jumped out of

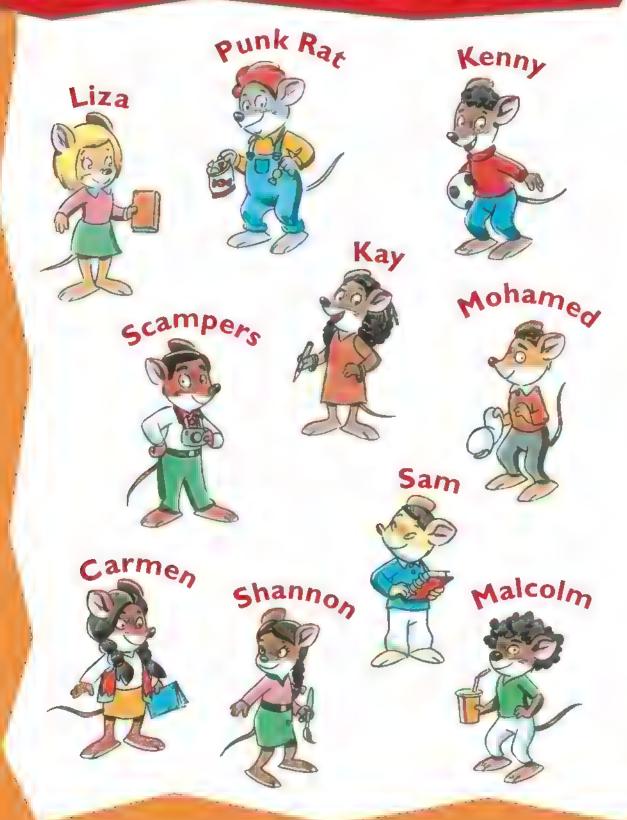
I nearly jumped out of my fur. And that was when I spotted a blonde rodent. No, she wasn't just any blonde rodent. She had a sweet smile. And she had blue eyes the color of a clear summer sky.

"Good morning, I am Miss Arigel Paws, Benjamin's teacher," she said.

I took a step toward her. But before I could shake her paw, I tripped over my tail. I landed snout first in the dirt.



BENJAMIN'S FRIENDS



David



Susan

Esmeralda



Steven

Lucy



Laura





GAT I

Tim



Sakura



Benjamin



Oliver





Don't Worry About a Thing!

I turned to run away with my tail between my legs. I was so embarrassed. Why did I have to make a fool of myself in front of such a PRETTY mouse?

"Today, we'll decide where to go on our field trip," I heard Miss Angel Paws announce.

Hmm. Field trip. Suddenly, I had an idea. Maybe the class could come visit me at *The Rodent's Gazette*. Then the teacher would see I wasn't just a clumsy, dim-witted mouse. I strode back into the classroom.

"Oh, good, Mr. Stilton, you haven't left. I wanted to ask for *your advice*," Miss Angel Paws squeaked. "Do you think this is a good place to go on a field trip?"





She began writing something on the blackboard. I would love to tell you what it said, but I couldn't read it. No, it wasn't written in ancient Squeakeeze. I just couldn't See a thing. That's because the class bully, Punk Rat, had tripped me on my way in. I had lost my eyeglasses.

The teacher topical on the board. "What do you think, Mr. Stilton?" she repeated.

I squinted desperately at the board.

I felt like one of the three blind mice.



Everything looked To G. Then I thought of something. Maybe Miss Angel Paws wanted to visit *The Rodent's Gazette*. Maybe that's what she had written on the board. Yes, that had to be it, I decided. That's why she wanted my advice.

"I think that's a great idea!" I said to the teacher. "I would love to take you there!"

Miss Angel Paws was amazed. "Really, Mr. Stilton?" she squeaked.

"Of course," I said. "And don't call me Mr. Stilton.... Call me Geronimo!"

"But who will pay for it? When can we go? Don't you have to work?" asked the teacher.

"Don't worry about a thing," I told her. "I can take a little time off. You will all be my guests. We can go today if you d like."

The teacher squealed with delight. She clapped her paws together. "Guess what,

class? Mr. Stilton—I mean Geronimo—has volunteered to take all of us to *Niagara Falls* for a whole week!" she announced. "We'll leave today!"

The class CHEERED.

"Hoordy! We're going to Niagara Falls! Thank you, Mr. Stilton!" they cried.

I blinked.

"Hiagara Fallsa,

Punk Rat pulled at one of my whiskers.

"Of course. Can't you read? Look at the blackboard," he smirked, handing me my



glasses. I put them on. I stared at the blackboard. It read CLASS TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS.

I gulped. Oh, how did I get myself into such a mess?

The teacher was already calling the travel agency. "Yes, twenty-two students, a teacher, and Geronimo Stilton. We need twentyfour round-trip tickets to Niagara Falls," she squeaked into the phone.

What could I do? The class was excited they could hardly sit still.

With a sigh, I took out my credit card. It's a

Top Mousi. Diamond-Paus-Super-Deauxe-Extra-Supreme-Gold Card.

It was a good thing I had it. This trip was going to **COST** me more than my two-year subscription to the Cheese-of-the-Month Club!

After booking our trip, the teacher waved a yellow notebook in the air.

"Class, this notebook will be our TRAVEL JOURNAL," she announced. "We will write in TOP-MOLSE it every day. That way, we will never forget this wonderful trip." Geronimo Stilton THIS IS
HOW TO KEEP
A TRAVEL
JOURNAL



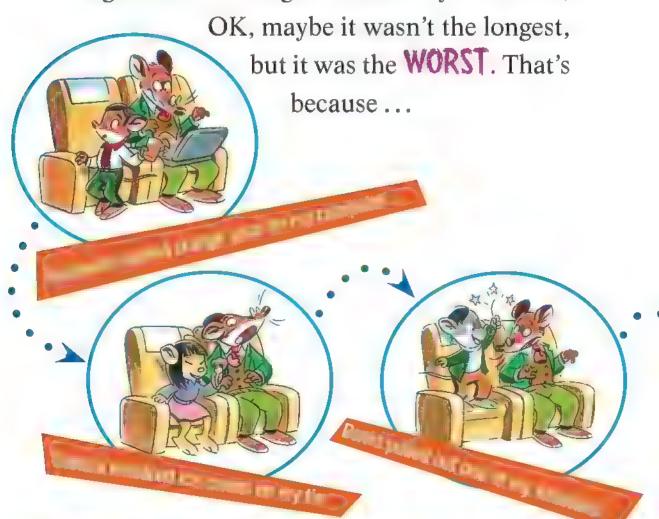
| TODAY IS: |
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| We plan to visit: |
| THE WEATHER IS: |
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| WE SAW: |
| We really enjoyed: |

| WE ATE: | |
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ARE WE THERE YET?

Do you know how to get to Niagara Falls? Let me tell you. The falls are located at the border of the United States and Canada. They are very far from Mouse Island. The flight was the longest one of my life. Well,



Scampers spilled Orange juice on my computer.

Sakura smeared ice eream on my tie.

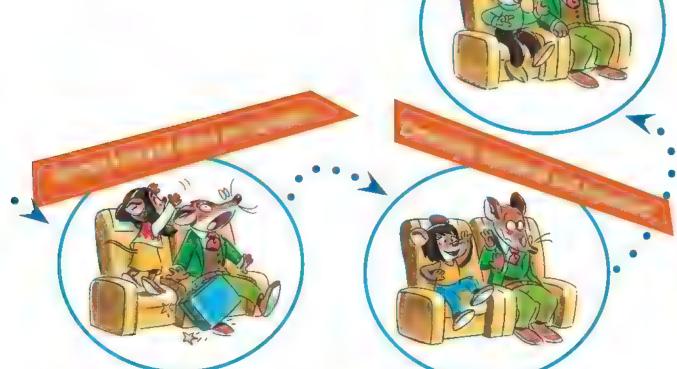
David pulled out one of my whiskers.

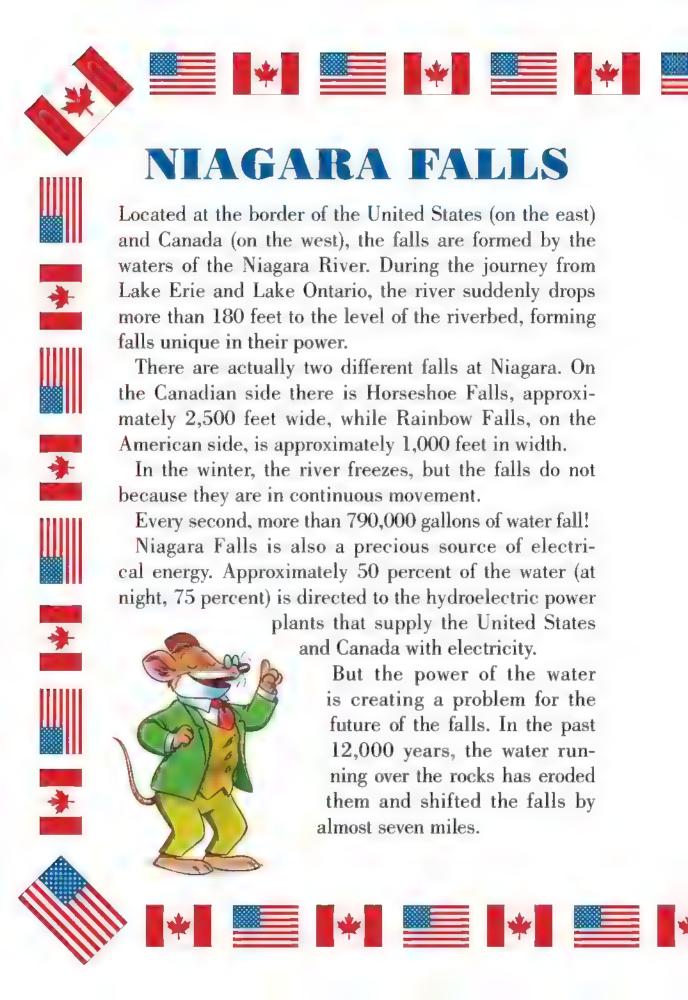
Carmen knocked down my suitcase.

Esmeralda squesked try car cff.

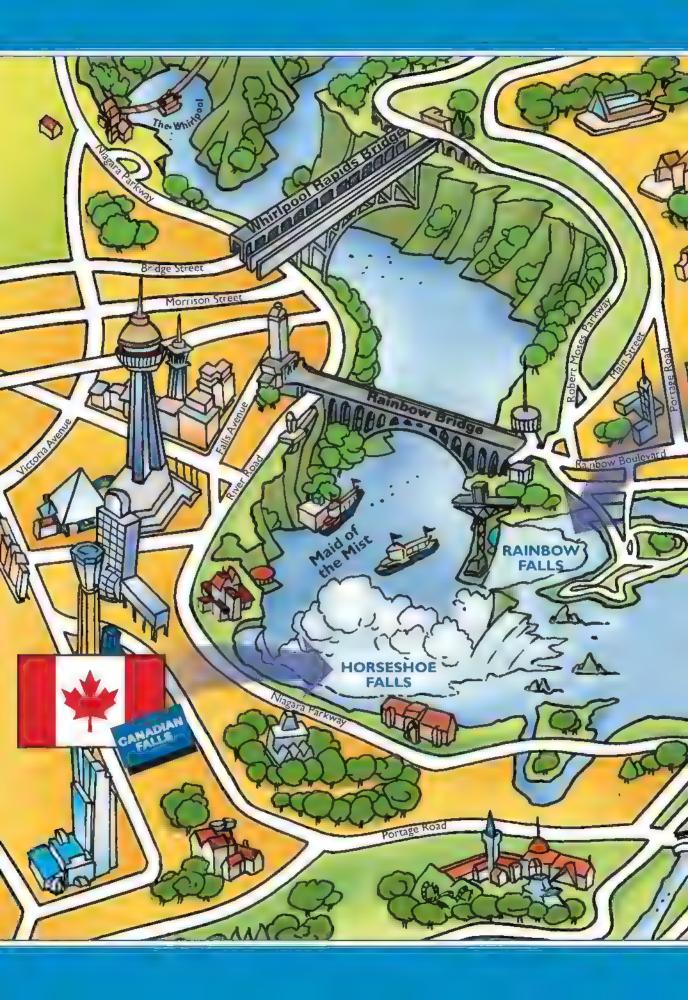
Tim asked me **317** times, "Are we there yet?"

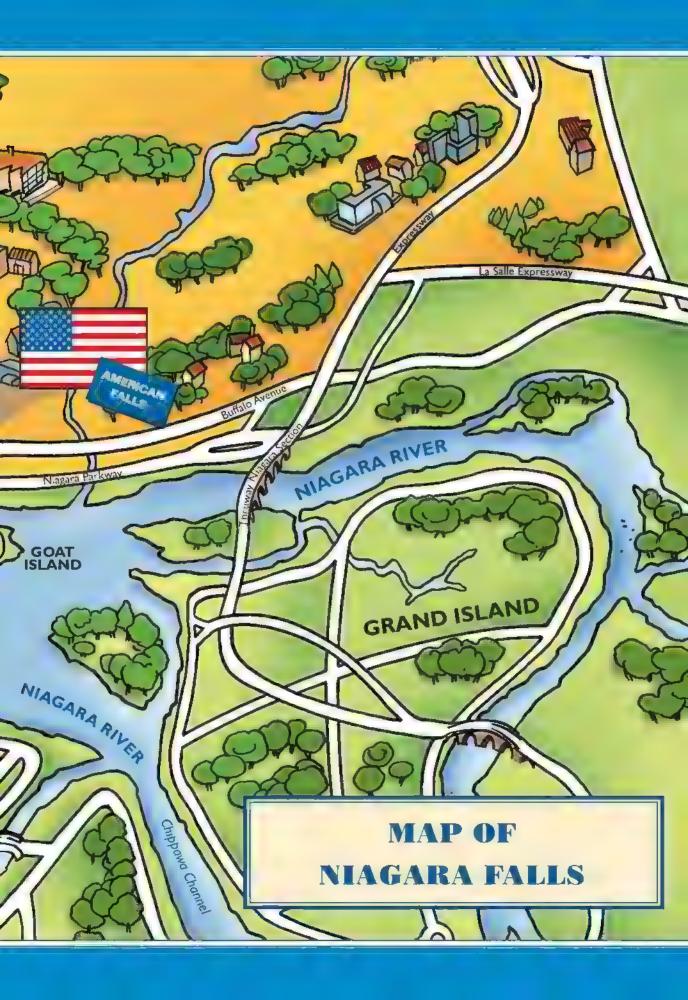
The whole time I tried desperately to read my book on Niagara Falls.

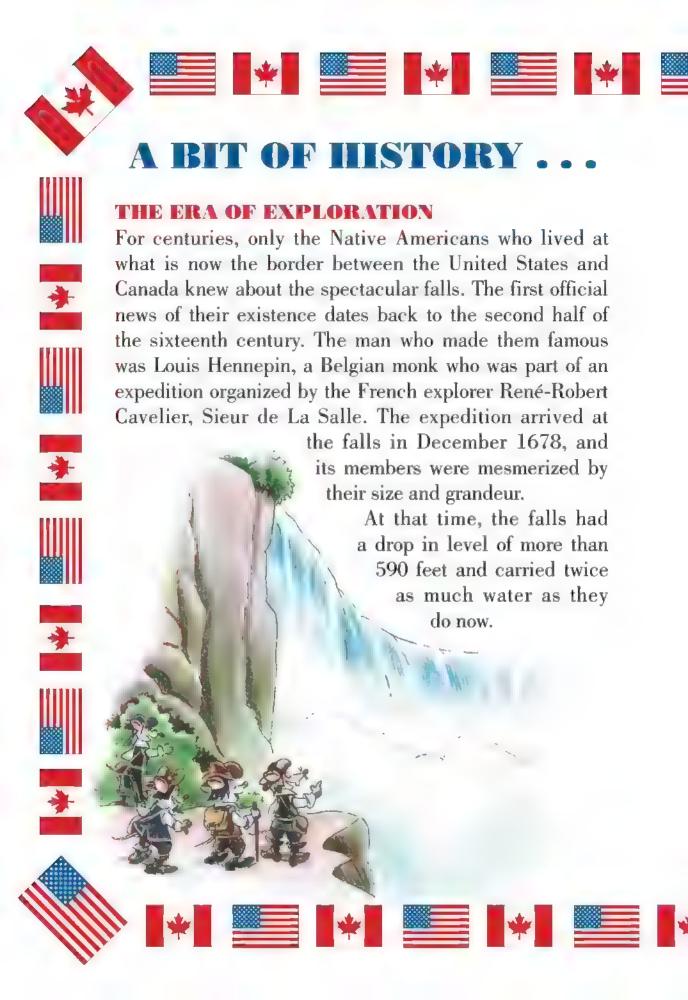


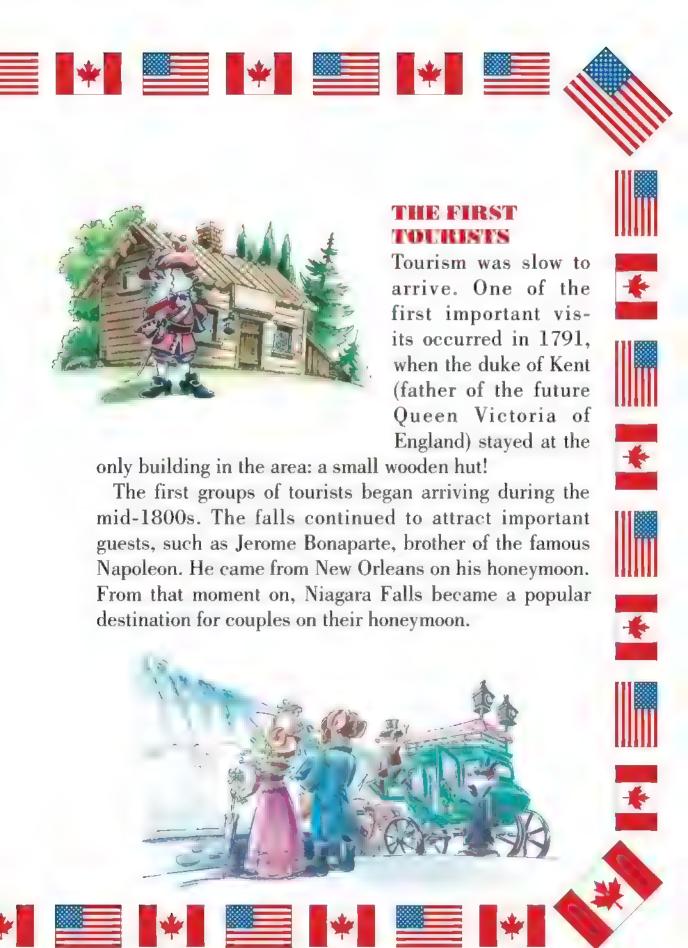














EVERYONE, EXCEPT ME!

Just before our plane landed, the captain made an announcement.



"Attention,

rodents: We are now passing over the famouse Niagara Falls. Take a look out your window if you would like to see a

truly spectacular view of the falls," he advised.

wanted to see the falls.

ME! EXCEPT ME! EXCEPT ME! EXCEPT ME! EXCEPT ME!



I was being suffocated by a throng of screaming, jumping mouselets. They had **PRESSED** themselves up against my window. I couldn't move. I couldn't breathe. I couldn't see a thing!

Finally, the plane landed. We were in Toronto, Canada. From there, we climbed on a **bus**. We rode on the bus for about **an** hour and a half. Then we arrived at the falls.

As we pulled up, the driver made an announcement: "We have now reached the famouse Niagara Falls. Look out your window if you would like to see a truly spectacular view of the falls," he said.



wanted to see the falls.

Everyone leaped to the window.

Everyone saw the spectacular view.

EXCEPT ME! EXCEPT ME! EXCEPT ME! EXCEPT ME!

A throng of **screaming** mouselets was

crawling all over me. They plastered themselves up against my window. I couldn't move. I couldn't breathe. I couldn't see a thing!

The bus stopped. I got off. The ROARING SOUND of the falls was incredible.

I tried to take a picture.

wanted to take a picture of the falls.

Lveryone got his or her camera ready.

Lveryone snapped away at the falls.

Except ME!

Oh, if only I could get away from those **5Creaming** mouselets. They were all over me! I couldn't move. I couldn't breathe.

I couldn't see a thing!

The bus took us to the city of Niagara Falls on the lake. It was already dark.





I Do Not Know How to Set Up a Tent!

What a day! I was tired. I was hungry.

I STUMBLED off the bus. I couldn't wait to sink into a nice SOFT bed. I couldn't wait to put on my fluffy cat-fur slippers. I couldn't wait to order from room service.

"Is the hotel nearby?" I yawned. "I'm pooped."

Miss Angel Paws looked shocked.

"Hotel? Why, Mr. Geronimo, we have come to enjoy the great outdoors. We're not going to a hotel. We're going to CAMP OUT," she squeaked.

My eyes opened wide. I looked around. Miss Angel Paws wasn't joking. We were standing in the middle of the wilderness!



Did I mention I'm not much of an outdoor mouse?

"Um, yes, well, who's going to set up the tents?" I stammered.

Miss Angel Paws rolled her eyes.

"You are, of course, Mr. Geronimo," she said.

I made a fuick calculation: There were twenty-four of us. Each tent would hold four mice. That meant I had to set up six tents for the little mice. Then we would need one tent for me and one for Miss Argel Paws. Plus, we needed one big tent for all of us to eat breakfast in.

Holey cheese! I couldn't set up nine tents!

Just then, the little mice began whining. "Come on! We're tired!"

I couldn't make heads or tails of the tents.

I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO SET UP A TENT!



n't do this!"



I set up one tent inside out. I zipped myself up in another and couldn't get out. Then I whacked my paw with a hammer.

"I give up!" I screeched.

Did I mention I'm not much of an outdoor mouse? I sat down on a rock. I took off my glasses so I could SOB FREELY. "Help! I co

Just then, my little nephew Benjamin whispered in my ear.

"Call Aunt Thea. She always knows what to do," he suggested.

I dried my tears. "Good idea," I agreed.

I guess you could say my sister, Thea, is the opposite of me. She loves a challenge.

A half hour later, after I talked to Thea on the phone, all of the tents were ready.

"Hooray!" yelled the little mice.

"Isn't it **great** sleeping in a tent, Mr. Geronimo?" Miss Angel Paws said.

THE TENT

HOW TO SET UP A TENT



Lay the tent flat and stake the corners.



Assemble the frame by connecting the poles, and hook the tent to the frame.



Pull the lateral ropes and stabilize the tent by staking the ropes.



Mount the rain tarp and attach it well with the stakes.



Dig a drainage ditch around the tent. You'll need it in case of rain.

Where to Set Up a Tent









Choose a flat area or one on a gentle slope that is well protected from the wind.



I Do Not Know How to Cook at a Campsite!

I was so tired I could only nod. Then I heard a low grumble. Was it a bear? Was it a fox? Was it a RAVENOUS, rodent-eating monster? No, it was just my tummy. I was starving!

"So, who will do the cooking?" I asked.
"Why, you will, of course, Mr. Geronimo,"
Miss Angel Paws said.



The little mice began screaming.

"Come on! We're Starving!" they whined.

I sighed. I trudged to the brook to get some **Water**. But on the way back, I tripped. The water flew out of the bucket.

I decided to get the FITE started. But the wood was too damp. It would not light.

I went to get some more wood and accidentally stepped on the egg carton. CRUNCH!

Then I noticed an army of ants. They were devouring all of the bread.

"I give up!" I squeaked. Did I mention I'm not much of an outdoor mouse?

"Try calling Aunt Thea again," Benjamin whispered. "She'll know what to do."

A half hour later, the fire was ready.

Now if I could just get the ants off the bread....

THE FIRE

How to Cook Outdoors



Before you light a fire, find out the wind's direction. Always be aware of the danger of fires! Keep a bucket of water nearby to put out the fire and always get help from an adult.



Bind three wooden poles together. Then hang a pot on a chain that has been secured at the top of the poles.





Arrange several clean, flat rocks so they are heated by a fire underneath. You can cook eggs, fish, or meat on top of them.



Arrange two forked sticks across from each other on either side of the fire. Hang the pots on a strong piece of wood, and then place each end of the wood in the forks.

Never Leave Fires Unattended!



COME ON! WE HAVE TO GO!

After we ate, I fell asleep with my snout in my plate. I Woke up with a start.

"Psst, psst, Mr. Geronimo!" a voice called.

It was Miss Angel Paws.

"Mr. Geronimo, you, um, forgot to set up a bathroom," she whispered.

I paled. A bathroom?

"come on! We have to go!" the little mice squeaked.

This time, I knew exactly what to do. I called my sister. I wasn't proud. I was desperate. After all, who knew how to set up a bathroom outdoors?

Of course, my sister figured it out.



Half an hour later, the bathroom was finished. And so was I. I crawled into my sleeping bag and slept like a ten-ton brick of stale cheese. Even a starving mouse couldn't have moved me.

Ronfff...bzzz...ronfff...bzzz...ronff...

THE TOILET

How to Make a Bathroom



I. Dig a hole. Leave a big pile of dirt next to the hole. After each use, throw some piled-up dirt into the hole.



2. Use some wooden poles and a tarp to build a screen around the toilet.



3. Build a tripod. Hang a bucket with water to use as a makeshift shower.



4. Build another tripod. Place a bowl on top to wash your paws and snout

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WHAT A STINK! WHAT A SMELL! WHAT A STENCH!

I woke up in the middle of the night. An Life Life Life stench surrounded me. It smelled worse than my cousin Trap's rancid fish soup. IT SMELLED WORSE THAN MY GRANDMOTHER ONEWHISKER'S DISGUSTING BRUSSELS SPROUT SOUFFLÉ.

I opened my eyes. A black-and-white furry creature with two beady little eyes stared back at me.

I jumped out of the sleeping bag, **squeaking** at the top of my lungs.

FLASHLIGHTS

snapped on all over the campsite.



"What a stink!"

"What a smell!"

"What a stench!" I heard the other campers CRY.

I couldn't have agreed more. I started to chime in when I heard some more voices.

"Where is it coming from?" one said.

"That tent there," another answered.

"That's the rodent from New Mouse City.

The one named Geronimo Stilton," a

third cried.

"He really needs to clean up his act,

someone else piped up.

M. I wonder if he kn that the word 'bath' means,

another muttered.

I turned beet red. How could they talk about me that way? I'm no **sewer** mouse. I love taking baths.

But there was no time to think about a bubble bath now. I had to defend myself. "I'm not the **stinky** one," I started to explain. "It was that creature. It had **BLACK** fur with a WINTE stripe..."

Punk Rat

Punk Rat snickered. "What creature? I don't see any creature," he smirked.

Then he began to sing in a high-pitched voice: "Geronimo sees things in the dark. A slug, a squirrel, a giant shark!"

Benjamin grabbed my paw. "Uncle, did you really see a creature?" he whispered. When I nodded, he stuck his snout in the

tourist guide. I guess he was pretending he didn't know me. I couldn't blame him. Everyone thought I was losing my whiskers.

At that moment, Benjamin began squeaking. He held up the book. It showed a picture of the creature.

"See, my uncle was right!" my nephew told Punk Rat. "The creature he saw is called a **SKUNK!**"

A skunk is a mammal in the weasel family. It has a thick black coat with white stripes. It lives in woody areas and feeds on insects, small mammals, and fruit. To protect itself from predators, it uses a itself from predators, it uses a unique system: It raises its tail, unique system: It raises its tail, spreads its hind feet, and sprays a smelly liquid that it can send as far as twelve feet.





A Wall of Rushing Waters

The next morning, we woke up at dawn. After breakfast, we hiked along the river.

I was tired. You probably already know that I am not a morning mouse.

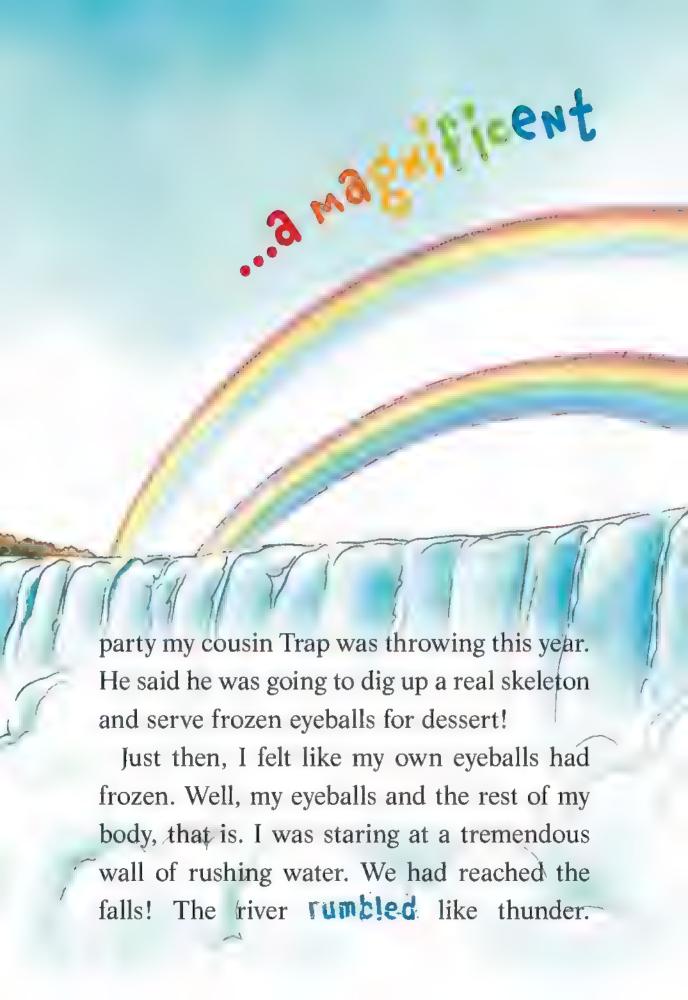
Diff I was also excited.

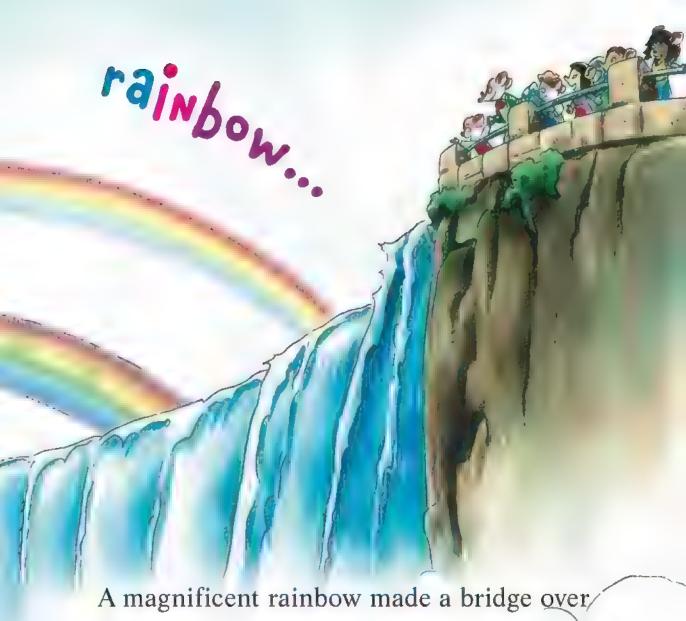
Finally, I would be able to see Niagara Falls!

Our paws crunched through the thick autumn leaves of yellow,

red, and brown. The air smelled crisp and fresh. Don't you just love autumn? I do. I love everything about it. Oh, except for Halloween. I'm not big on scary holidays.

I started thinking about the Halloween

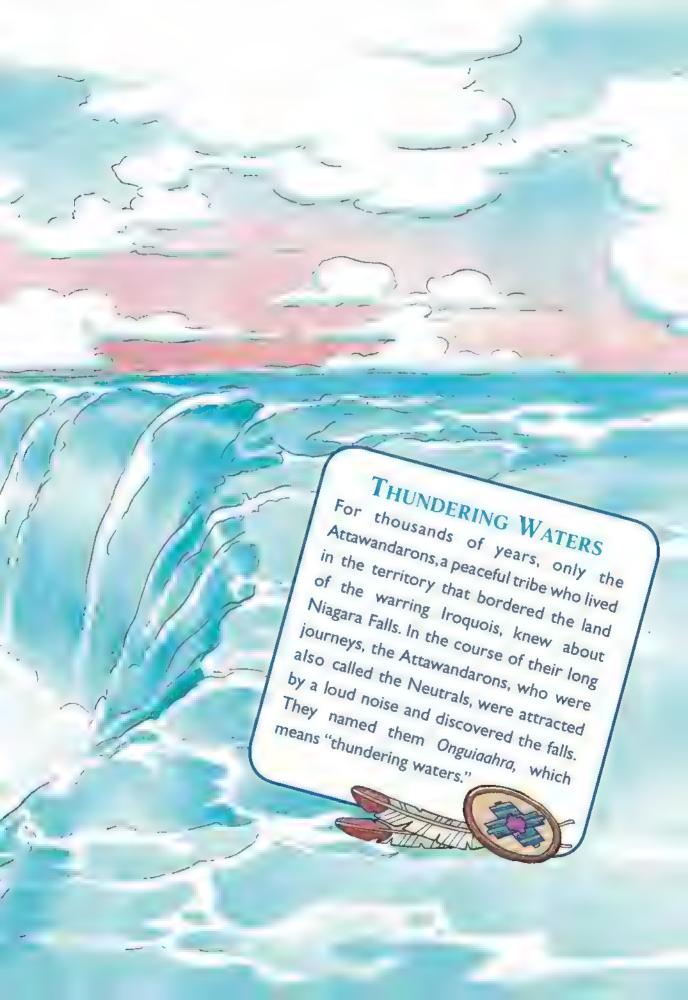


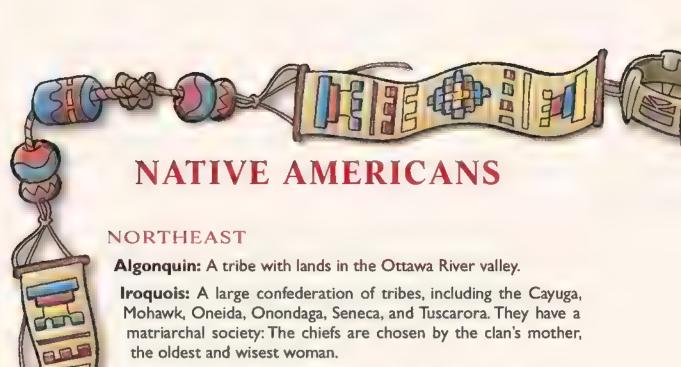


the falls.

Ah, what an unbelievable sight! I could have stood and admired the falls all day. I just had one little problem: The rushing water was getting to me. With a squeak, I took off in search of a bathroom.







Attawandarons: A non-warring tribe that lived on the shores of lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario.

SOUTHEAST

REPE

Cherokee: A tribe in Tennessee and North Carolina. A Cherokee leader, Sequoya, invented an alphabet for the Cherokee language that was made up of eighty-five symbols.

Creek: A confederation of tribes from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

Seminole: A tribe that emigrated to Florida and absorbed many runaway slaves.

SOUTHWEST

Apache: A group of tribes (Mescalero, San Carlos, Fort Apache, Apache Peaks, Mazatzal, and others) that share the same language. Skilled warriors, they were the last to surrender to white settlers. Famous chiefs include Geronimo and Cochise.

Navajo: Native people of northern New Mexico and Arizona, they are famous for their craftwork, including blankets, rugs, and jewelry.

Pueblo: A group of tribes in Arizona and New Mexico. This term also refers to the flat-roofed stone or adobe houses in which these Native Americans traditionally lived. Their houses were sometimes several stories high.



PLAINS

Cheyenne: A nomadic tribe, the Cheyenne once lived in tepees made from long poles and buffalo skins. They were skilled buffalo hunters.

Comanche: Warriors feared by all, the Comanche became skilled horsemen.

Blackfoot: Famous for their shoemaking ability, the Blackfoot dyed their moccasins black.

Sioux: A group of tribes, also known as the Lakota. Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and Red Cloud are famous Sioux chiefs.

HIGHLANDS AND LOWLANDS

Nez Percé (or Pierced Noses): A peaceful tribe in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, who once wore objects piercing their noses.

Shoshone: Buffalo hunters in California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming, they sought peace with white settlers during the Indian wars.

CALIFORNIA

Hoopa: A tribe of artisans who traditionally lived along rivers in houses made of cedar. They are acorns and salmon.

Wintu: A tribe whose economy was once based on deer, salmon, and acorns.

NORTHWEST

Chinook: Famous salmon merchants on the north shore of the Columbia River in Oregon.

Tlingit: A tribe skilled in working cedar wood and living on the islands and coast of Alaska.



ALL ABOARD!

A few minutes later, I was back at the falls. Miss Angel Paws was making an announcement.

"We will now board a boat called the *Maid* of the *Mist* that will take us to the falls," she told the class. "Please do not lean over the side."

We put on shiny rain coats. Then we climbed aboard the boat.



It sailed straight up the Niagara River. Everything looked so different from $\mathbb{B}\mathbb{H}\mathbb{L}\mathbb{D}\mathbb{W}$.

A mist rose **UP** from the **spraying** water. We were SO COSE to the falls.

I dug my paws into the railing of the deck. The water **churned** below us. I was **glad** we were all safe on the boat.

The sprays of water soaked my fur. Oh, well. No one could say I was stinky now.

I looked around. We were surrounded by

-











I felt like I was in a dream

Just then, I remembered a story that I had read about Niagara Falls. I told it to the class.



THE LEGEND OF THE MAID OF THE MIST

any years ago, a tribe of Native Americans lived peacefully near the Niagara River. In order to protect themselves from diseases and hunger, the tribe always asked the god of thunder, who lived in a cave under the falls, for protection.

One day, the god saw Lelawala, the daughter of the great chief Eagle Eye, and decided to keep her for himself. The Native Americans offered him canoes full of flowers, fruit, and game, but the god insisted on marrying her. Lelawala was courageous and decided to protect her tribe by marrying the god. She showed up dressed in white, with a garland of flowers. She boarded a white birch canoe and bravely hurled herself over the falls. But when she fell from the top, the god stretched out his arms and saved her The

courageous young girl remained forever in the cave under the falls. She was called the Maid of the Mist, because at the base of the falls, there is always a dense mist made of droplets of water.



Don't Move, Punk Rat!

When I finished telling the STORY, I looked up. The boat was returning to shore. Right then, I noticed something. It was quiet. Too quiet. I began to get the feeling that something—or someone—was missing.

I ran up and down the boat counting the little mice.



I was right. We were short one rodent.

Can you guess who was missing? Here's a hint: He's the loudest mouse in the class and a pain in my tail. That's right, it was Punk Rat.

Suddenly, I spotted the little pest on the

shore. He must have been left behind when the boat took off.

"Don't move, Punk Rat!" I yelled. "It's dangerous! We'll come and pick you up."

"IT'S DANGEROUS!!!"

But at that moment, disaster struck. Punk Rat slipped on a wet rock. He tumbled into the water.







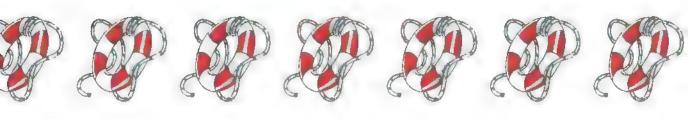
A DIVE...IN THE ICY WATER!

A little voice inside my head began screaming at me. "Don't just stand there! Save him!" it yelled. I dove into the water. That's when the other little voice began screaming. It shrieked,

"Geronimo, are you crazy? You're not a swimmer. You can barely do two laps at the Cheddarville Y!"

ICY-COLD WATER soaked into my ears, my nose, even my throat. It blocked out the voices. All I could think about was SAVING Punk Rat.

I swam desperately toward him. I could



see his little head bobbing up and down in the waves. His little paws waved in the air.

Up and down, wave. Up and down, wave. He looked like he was doing a perfect water ballet dance. I wondered if he had ever thought about taking lessons.



I was still thinking about water ballet when things went from bad to worse. Yep, Punk Rat went PNDER.















What could I do? I dove down after him.

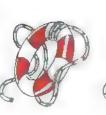
It was dark under the water. | COULD HARDLY SEE A THING. Everything was so fuzzy. Everything was so blurry. Maybe I need a new pair of glasses, I thought. Then I realized I wasn't wearing glasses. I had lost them in the water!

Luckily, my paw felt **Something**. It was Punk Rat's tail. I grabbed it. I pulled him up.

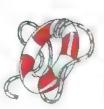
Someone threw me a life buoy from the boat. Then they pulled us in.

Cheesecake! We were saved!

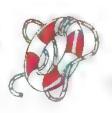
















YOU ARE NOT A MOUSE... YOU ARE A HERO!

The boat's captain patted me on the back. "Nice going, Mr. Stilton!" he exclaimed. Then he led the crowd in a chorus of

Cheers.

"MIP" HOORANA"

"MIP" HOORANA

they shouted.

A large, beefy tourist threw his paws around me. "That was beautiful," he squeaked. "Who would think a SCINGG! V little rodent like you could do something like that?" He embraced me in a Chunching hug. I felt all the bones in my body snapping. Then he accidentally stepped on my foot.

"JYJUUUUOOOOOOOOUUUUCK!"

I screamed at the top of my lungs.

I quickly wrapped my foot in my nephew's bandanna.

Next, a little old lady mouse gave me a kiss. She had tears in her eyes.

"Bravo, young man! You are not a mouse...you are a hero!" she exclaimed.

While she was kissing me, the handle of her purse went into my eye.

The whole class stared at me. I could tell they were impressed. Little mice love pirates.

"You're so lucky to have such a COOL UNCLE," Sakura told Benjamin.

My nephew **ED** with pride.

Punk Rat and I were wet and shivering. A sailor wrapped us in a blanket. He gave us each a cup of HCT chocolate.

My paws were shaking so much I spilled mine all over me. "0000000UUCH!" I screamed at the top of my lungs.

Oh, when would this day come to an **END**?





FRIENDS...FUREVER!

When Punk Rat stopped shivering, he wrapped his paws around my neck.

"Thank you, Geronimo! You saved my life! I'm sorry I played all those dumb tricks on you," he gushed.

I tried to say something, but I couldn't squeak. I couldn't move. I couldn't breathe.

Punk Rat was squeezing my neck so Friends furever! tightly I was choking!

At last, he let go. Then he shook my paw.

> "Friends...furever!" the little rodent squeaked.

I gave him a weak smile. croaked, still gasping for breath.

The Adventure Seekers of Niagara Falls

Many people have come to Niagara I alls seeking fame and adventure. Here are just a few of the most famouse.



François Gravelet, known at François Gravelet, known at B60, he Blonding In 1859 and 1860, he knowsed the falls by walking or steel sope strutched across the top

The first woman to hurl herself

wooden barre

wer the falls inside wooden barre

was Annie Telson, sixty-three years

of age. She completed the feat is 190

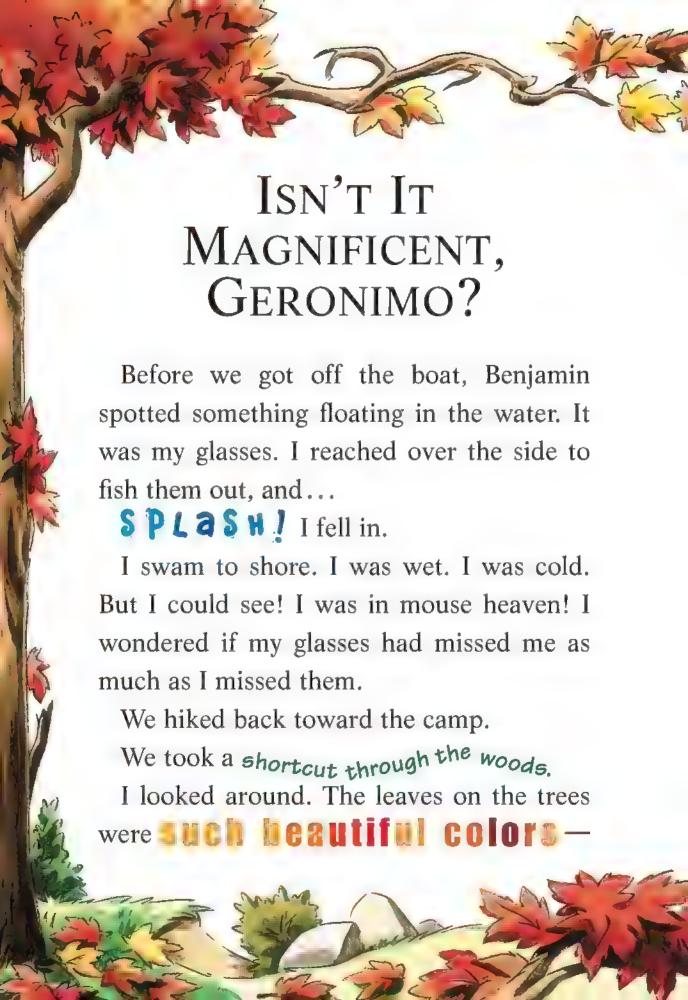
companied by her sat

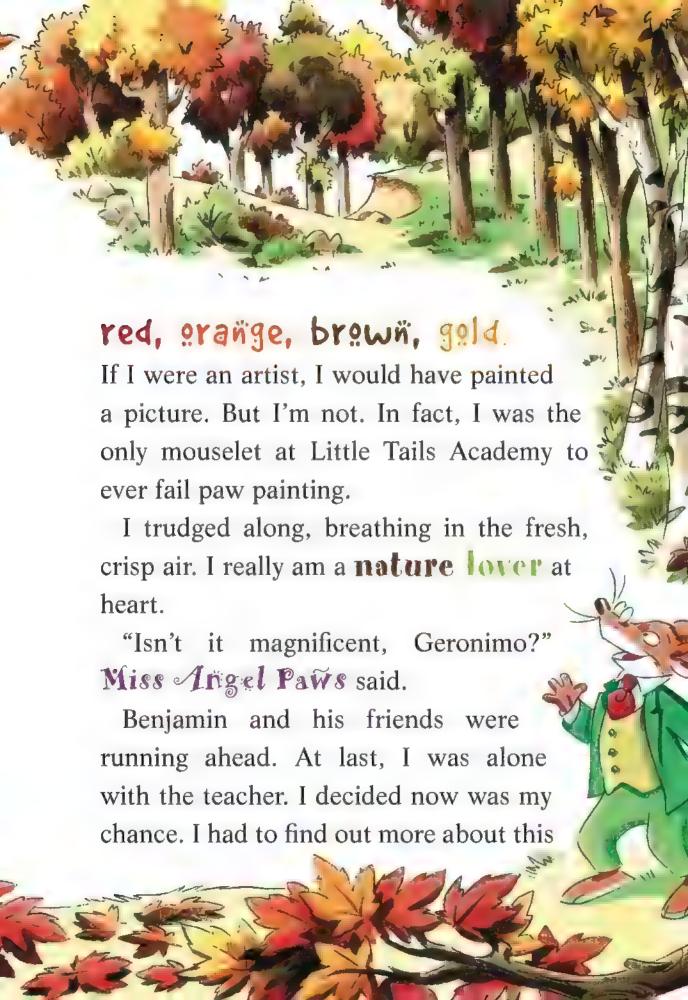


Bobby Leach faced the falls in 1911. He locked himself in 19 steel barnel, but he was less lucky than Annie He was in the hospital for his months with rarious broken

because the authorities stopped him. Dave Munday succeeded in hurling himself over the falls in barrel twice, once in 1985 and once in 1993.







beautiful mouse. Maybe we could go out to dinner sometime. I wondered if she would like Le Squeakery. It's my favorite French restaurant.

"So, um, Miss Angel Paws," I began shyly. "Are you married?"

Miss Angel Paws shook her head. A big tear rolled down her fur. Then she collapsed in a fit of sobs.

Oh, why did I have such rotten luck with female mice? If they weren't crying, they were running away from me.



The teacher pulled herself together. "Sorry," she **sniffed**. "I am not married. But I was not married once, a long, long time ago...."

Carefully, she opened a locket that she wore around her neck. Inside was a whisker.

"This is his whisker," Miss Angel Paws explained. "It is all I have left of him. The last time I saw him, he was being chased by an angry cat. I swore I would never fall in love again."

I sighed. What a said, said stery. I felt bad for the whiskerless mouse. I felt bad for Miss Argel Paws. Right then, it began to rain. The water Poured Down in Buckets.







LOVE UNDER A CHEESE-COLORED UMBRELLA

Suddenly, a mouse appeared out of nowhere. He was carrying a large CHEESE-COLORED umbrella.

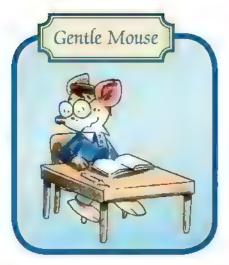
"Please, allow me," he said *softly* to Miss Angel Paws. He held the umbrella over her head and smiled.

The two rodents stared at each other. They stared and stared. I wondered what the staring contest was all about. Then I noticed something. The mouse with the umbrella was missing a whisker. *Could it be?* I wondered.

Just then, the two mice clasped paws. "It's you!" they squeaked together.

Well, that answered that question. It was





all pretty amazing. I mean, what were the chances Miss Arigel Paws would find her lost love at Niagara Falls? That's like finding a cheese cracker in an overflowing garbage can. It takes more than just digging. It takes luck!

I was happy for the teacher. At least someone was having a lucky day. I, on the other paw, was not. The rain seeped into my fur. It dribbled down my whiskers. It poured into my ears. I was getting soaked. I could see the little mice huddled together in a dry cave up ahead.

Meanwhile, the two love mice had the cheese-colored umbrella to protect them. Not that they seemed to notice it was



raining. They looked like they were under some kind of magic spell. The kind that makes you forget where you are.

I sighed. I wished I were under a



Then I could forget I was standing outside in the middle of a torrential





A REAL GENTLE MOUSE

That night, we sat around a crackling campfire. It turned out Miss Angel Paws's friend was a forest ranger. His name was Gentle Mouse. I

wanted not to like him.

After all, I came on this

trip just to spend more time with Miss Angel Paws.

But how could I hate a rodent

with a name like that?

Gentle Mouse knew a lot about *realitie*. He showed us a maple leaf.

Maple Syrup

The sap from maple trees can be boiled down and made into maple sugar or maple syrup. When winter turned into spring, Native Americans would make V-shaped slashes in a maple tree trunk and collect the sap in a vessel. Then they would boil the sap down into sugar. The early European settlers learned this way of getting maple sugar from the Native Americans.

"From this **TREE**, we get **Maple Syrup**," Gentle Mouse explained. He told the class how they could start their own collection of dried leaves.





HOW TO MAKE A COLLECTION OF DRIED LEAVES



Gather some leaves that have fallen to the ground. Take care to choose the most beautiful ones—with lots of different colors, shapes, and dimensions.



As soon as you get home, clean the leaves well. To dry them, place them between two sheets of paper inside a thick book.



When the leaves are dry and flat, glue them in a notebook or put them in a photo album.



Next to each leaf, write its name and the date it was collected.



Near each leaf's common name, you can write its botanical name, which can be found in an encyclopedia or field guide.







CHEEP...CHEEP... CHEEP...

The next went for a hike through the woods. I tried to keep up with the group, but I kept tripping over rocks and twigs. Did I mention I'm not much of a sports mouse?

Gentle Mouse pointed out the different plants along the way.

"This is a sugar maple. Its leaf is on the



Canadian flag," he explained. "This is a chestnut tree. Has anyone ever tried a **Chestnut**?"



Just then, I saw two beady eyes blinking behind the bushes. "Look, a **fox**," Gentle Mouse whispered excitedly.

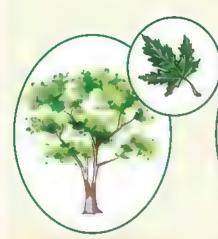
I gulped. I was okay with plants, but wild animals weren't exactly my cup of cheddar. They can be a little scary. No, make that downright terrifying!

I scampered past the **fox**.

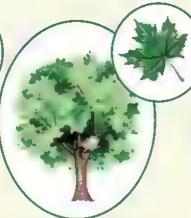
Gentle Mouse was busy pointing out other



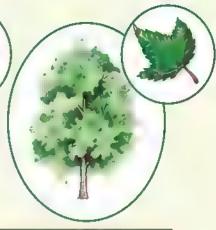
TREES AND THEIR LEAVES



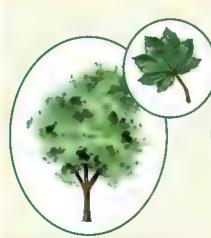
I. Sugar Maple
Acer saccharum



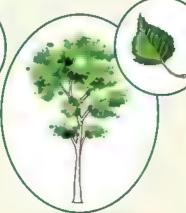
2. Norway Maple
Acer platanoides



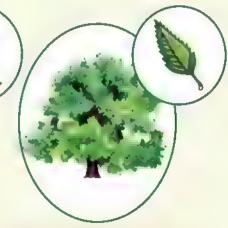
3. Red Maple
Acer rubrum



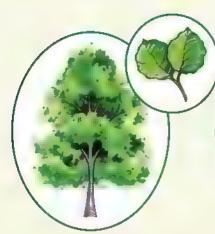
4.Vine Maple
Acer circinatum



5. Paper Birch Betula papyrifera



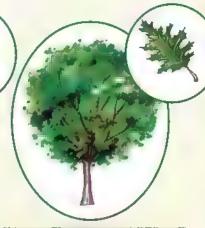
6. American Chestnut
Castanea dentata



7. American Beech Fagus grandifolia

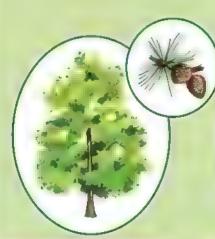


8.American Elm
Ulmus americana



9. Red Oak Quercus rubra

EVERGREENS



10. Pitch Pine Pinus rigida



II. Red Pine Pinus resinosa



12. Balsam Fir Abies balsamea





animals. We saw a beaver, a raccoon, and even a moose with huge antlers.

I couldn't believe how many wild animals we came across. Suddenly, I heard a loud chirping. Cheep! Cheep!

I followed the chirping to an oak tree. A little bird was lying on the ground.

"Help! It's fallen and it can't get up!" I told Gentle Mouse. "What should we do?"

How to Give First Aid to a Bird

I. When you find a little bird fallen to the ground, look for its nest around that area. Leave the bird alone and wait a little while....Its parents could come to claim it.

- 2. If there is no nest, pick the bird up from the ground gently.
- 3. If the bird is very small and still without feathers, you need to feed it, using a dropper.
- 4. If the bird has feathers, take a look at its beak. If it's short and strong, feed it grain seeds. If it's long and thin, feed it insects.
- 5. Keep the bird in a warm place that is similar to its nest, like a box with a woolen cloth.
- 6. As soon as the bird is able to fly, set it free.

 And remember, ask a parent or adult before touching any wild animal!





THE FOREST IS ON FIRE!

Gentle Mouse showed us how to make a nest using a box and a towel. We found some seeds and fed them to the bird. It let out a happy chirp. Then it started SMCKING. Holey cheese! What was in those seeds? Then I realized the smoke wasn't coming from the bird. It was filling the air around us!

Gentle Mouse called for help on his cell phone. "HURRY! THE FOREST IS ON FIRE!" he cried. "Someone must have left a campfire burning. Send a plane right away!"

Gentle Mouse told everyone to **STAY CALM**. He divided us up into two teams.

The first team dug FIRE TRENCHES.

"If we cut down all of the plants, the FIRE will have nothing to burn,"

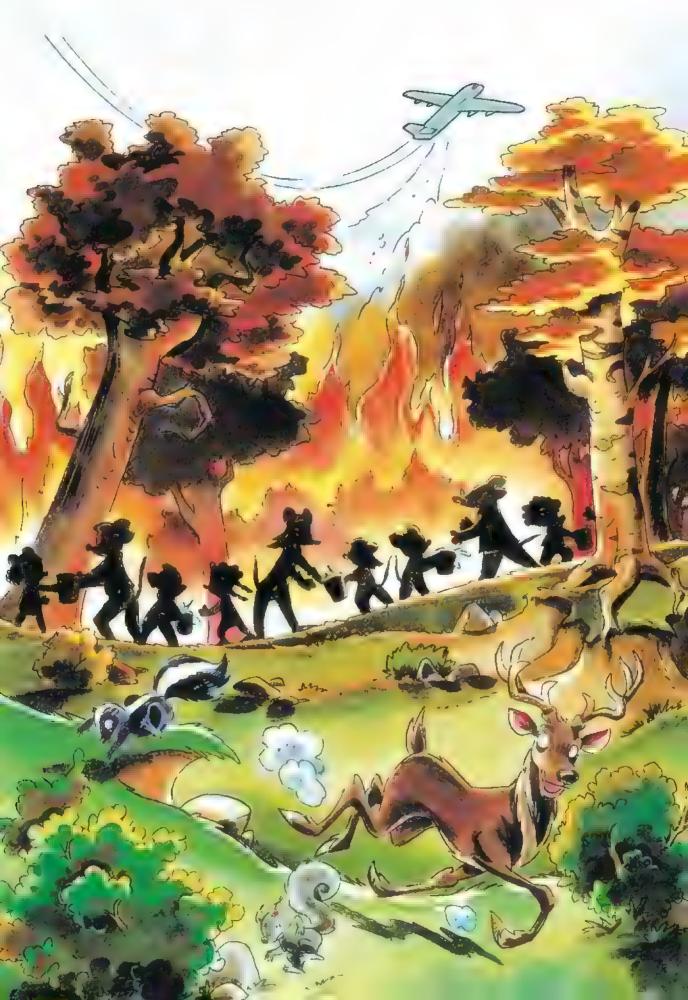
Gentle Mouse explained.

The second team formed a long chain that ended at a nearby brook. The first mouse in line filled a pail with water. Then he passed it down the line. The last mouse in line threw the water on the flames.



We worked like pack rats, but the heat was becoming unbearable. My fur was **scorched**. The smoke was making me choke.

Suddenly, a miracle happened. We heard the sound of engines. It was a plane carrying an enormouse tank filled with water! The plane dumped the water onto the flames and then left to pick up more water from the lake. We were saved! But



before we could celebrate, Gentle Mouse began **SHOUTING**. "Has anyone seen Miss Angel Paws?"

"I saw her running toward those bushes. I think she was trying to help a wounded fawn," Kay cried.

"Don't worry, Miss Angel Paws!"

Gentle Mouse yelled. "I'll save you!"

He disappeared in a cloud of smoke. A few minutes later, he returned. He was carrying the teacher in his paws. "My hero," giggled Miss Angel Paws. "He saved the fawn, too!"

I felt a twinge of jealousy. Why couldn't

I be someone's hero? Still, I had to admit, Miss Angel Paws and Gentle Mouse were a match made in mouse heaven.





HAVE I GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

That night, the two **love mice** made an announcement. Can you guess what it was? Yes, they had decided to get married.

"MOORAY!" cried the class. Everyone was so excited. But they were even more excited when they heard that Miss Angel Paws and Gentle Mouse wanted to get married

immediately. They had been missing each other for years. They didn't want to wait any longer.

"We can do it right here in Niagara Falls!" Miss Angel Paws squeaked. We put our heads together to plan the ceremony. It would have to be pretty simple. There would be no wedding ake. After all, where could we get a dress and a cake in the middle of the wilderness?

I called my sister to ask for her advice. As I said, that mouse just loves a challenge.

An hour later, my cell phone **RANG**. It was Thea. "Hey, Gerry Berry, have I got a Surprise for you!" she squeaked.

I GULPED. A surprise? From my sister? The last time she surprised me, she carpeted my whole apartment in PINK CAT FUR!



FLAP, FLAP, FLAP... VROOOOOOMMMMM!

Right at that instant, I heard a **strange** noise over my head.

LAP, FLAP, FLAP... VROOOOMMM! VROOOOMMM!

I looked up and screamed.

A pink helicopter was circling above me.

Pink sugar-coated almonds rained down all around me.

Pink invitations with the bride's and groom's names on them flew through the air.

A bunch of thorny **pink** roses hit me in the snout. Youch!

So this was my sister's surprise. I was

relieved. I'd take a thorn in the snout over that awful **pink** carpeting any day.

I told everyone who the nutty mouse flying the plane was.

"My sister loves pink," I added.

At that moment, an **ENDMODE pink** package struck me on the head. Before I fainted, I noticed a note on the side of the box. It said:

For Angel Paws and Gentle Mouse

When I came to, the others were busy opening **Thea's** package. No one gave me a second glance. I snorted. So much for mousely manners. It









was clear that all anyone cared about was the box.

What was inside? It was a full-length wedding dress and a tux. Now everyone was happy. Well, everyone except me, that is. A lump had formed on top of my head. It was the size of a mega-huge ball of mozzarella!





Congratulations!





BARBECUE TIME!

After the wedding ceremony, we headed back to the campsite. When we arrived we were overwhelmed by a delicious smell. I sniffed the air. Could it be? Yes, it smelled just like a **backyard barbecue**.

I ran toward the campsite. That's when I spotted a big poster leaning against a rock. It said:

BARBECUE!

COME ONE, COME ALL.

GET READY FOR THE BEST BARBECUE

THIS SIDE OF NIAGARA FALLS!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE

BEST CHEF IN THE WORLD!

I scratched my fur. There was only one rodent I knew who was that full of himself. There was only one rodent I knew who was that irritating...such a pain!

My cousin Trap!

Just then, a pair of whiskers emerged from behind a cloud of smoke. A pot-bellied rodent wearing a loud Hawaiian-print shirt stood behind a smoking grill. He waved a greasy spatula at me. "Yo, **Germeister**, what's squeaking?" he smirked. "Love the lump on your head. It's sooooo you!"

I rolled my eyes. Yep, it was my cousin Trap, all right. Have I mentioned he's a total pain in my tail?

I started to explain about the bump on my head when Trap interrupted me.

"Listen up, rodents!" he called. "You're about to taste the best cooking around. So

don't drag your feet, it's time to eat. Now that you've found Trap, you can throw away your map. That's **TRAP**—

- T as in Look out, tongue, you're in for a treat!
- R as in Ready or Not, Here it comes!
- A as in Ask me if I can cook.
- P as in Pay attention, the name is Trap!"

Yes, there is one thing you should know about my cousin. He's in love. No, not with another mouse. With himself!



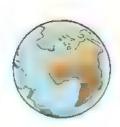
Still, I had to admit his barbecue was DELICICUS. I stuffed my snout like my uncle Cheesebelly at a make-your-own-cheese-sundae buffet.

After dessert, Thea took me on a helicopter ride over the **falls**. It really was a **SPECTACULAR** sight. Too bad I got sick on the way down. I knew I shouldn't have eaten **three pieces of cheesecake**!

THAT HIT THE SPOT!







LITTLE MICE AROUND THE WORLD

Finally, it was time to go home. We boarded the plane headed for Mouse Island. It was another long flight. The little mice climbed all over me. Then they sang songs at the top of their lungs. I didn't get one bit of rest. Still, I was kind of seed when we landed. I was going to miss those little rodents.

As we were waiting for our luggage, I made an announcement. "You are all invited to visit me at *The Rodent's Gazette*," I told the class. "You can see how we put the newspaper together. You can see how a Book is made."

"HOORAY!" the little mice cheered.

Then Punk Rat grabbed my paw.

"I'm going to miss you, Mr. Geronimouse," he sobbed.

I patted his head.

"I'll miss you too, Punk Rat," I said. "Um, but remember, my name is Geronimo, Geronimo Stilton."

"Of course, Mr. Geronimity," Punk Rat squeaked.

I tried to remain calm. "It's Geronimo, Punk Rat," I repeated. "That's G-E-R-O-N-I-M-O."

Punk Rat smirked. "That's what I said, Mr. Geronimoose," he giggled.



I gave up. What else could I po?

Punk Rat flung his paws around my neck.

He really wasn't such a bad little mouse.

In fact, he was just like lots of little mice around the world—full of life and love and, oh, of course, cheese.







To Travel... IS BETTER THAN TO ARRIVE

We headed for the airport exit. A school bus was waiting for Miss Angel Paws and her class. I waved good-bye. "I'll take a taxi home," I told them.

A line of cheese-colored cabs waited at the curb. But for some reason, my paws didn't want to budge. My bag felt like it weighed a ton. An overwhelming feeling of sadness

came over me. It had been such an

exciting adventure.

And now it was over.

Just then, I remembered a line from one of my favorite authors. His name was Robert Louis Squeakenson.
Do you know him? He wrote
a book called TREASURE

15LAND. Anyway, he said
that TO TRAVEL IS BETTER

THAN TO ARRIVE.



Well, I don't know if that is true all of the time. Usually, I am thrilled to get back to my comfy, cozy mouse hole. But this time, I still had the **travel bug** in me.

And so I did what any smart mouse would do. I turned around and headed right back into the airport. I, Geronimo Stilton, booked a trip to CARRESE ISLAND. I hear it's supposed to be beautiful there this time of year. Blue skies, blue waters, and lots

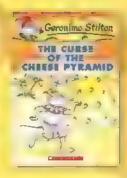
Couldn't Wait to get there!

Don't miss any of my fabumouse adventures!



Geronimo Stilton
LOST TREASURE
OF THE
EMBRALD TYPE

#1 Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye



#2 The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid



#3 Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House



#4 I'm Too Fond of My Fur!



#5 Four Mice Deep in the Jungle



#6 Paws Off, Cheddarface!



#7 Red Pizzas for a Blue Count



#8 Attack of the Bandit Cats



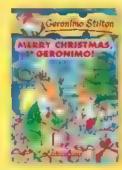
#9 A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo



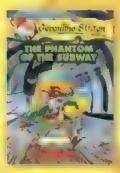
#10 All Because of a Cup of Coffee



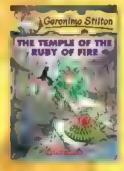
#11 It's Halloween, You 'Fraidy Mouse!



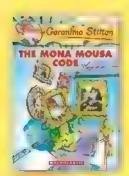
#12 Merry Christmas, Geronimo!



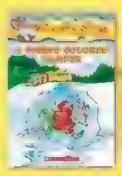
#13 The Phantom of the Subway



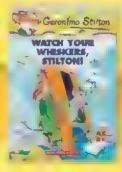
#14 The Temple of the Ruby of Fire



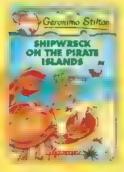
#15 The Mona Mousa Code



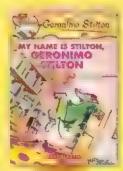
#16 A Cheese-Colored Camper



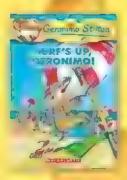
#17 Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton!



#18 Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands



#19 My Name Is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton



#20 Surf's Up, Geronimo!



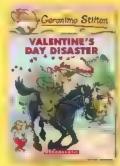
#21 The Wild, Wild West



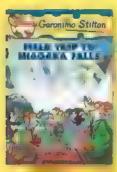
#22 The Secret of Cacklefur Castle



A Christmas Tale



#23 Valentine's Day Disaster



#24 Field Trip to Niagara Falls



#25 The Search for Sunken Treasure



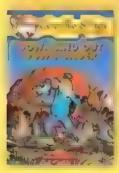
#26 The Mummy with No Name



#27 The Christmas Toy Factory



#28 Wedding Crasher



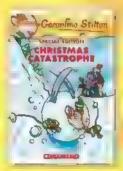
#29 Down and Out Down Under



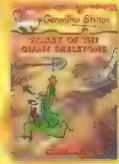
#30 The Mouse Island Marathon



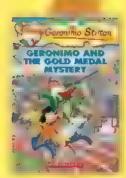
#31 The Mysterious Cheese Thief



Christmas Catastrophe



#32 Valley of the Giant Skeletons



#33 Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery



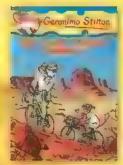
#34 Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent



#35 A Very Merry Christmas



#36 Geronimo's Valentine



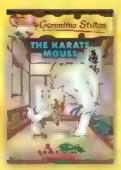
#37 The Race Across America



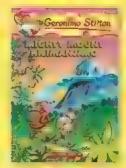
#38 A Fabumouse School Adventure



#39 Singing Sensation



#40 The Karate Mouse



#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Thief



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!



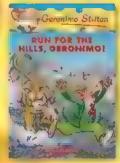
#44 The Giant Diamond Robbery



#45 Save the Whale!



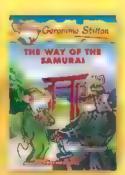
#46 The Haunted
Castle



#47 Run for the Hills, Geronimo!



#48 The Mystery in Venice



#49 The Way of the Samurai



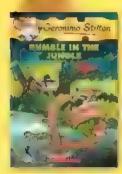
#50 This Hotel Is Haunted



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist



#52 Mouse in Space!



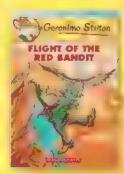
#53 Rumble in the Jungle



#54 Get into Gear, Stilton!



#55 The Golden Statue Plot



#56 Flight of the Red Bandit



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these exciting
Thea Sisters
adventures!



Thea Stilton and the Dragon's Code



Thea Stilton and the Mountain of Fire



Thea Stilton and the Ghost of the Shipwreck



Thea Stilton and the Secret City



Thea Stilton and the Mystery in Paris



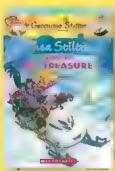
Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure



Thea Stilton and the Star Castoways



Theo Stilton: Big Trouble in the Big Apple



Thea Stilton and the Ice Treasure



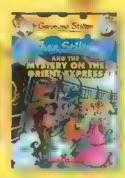
Thea Stilton and the Secret of the Old Castle



Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab Hunt



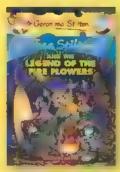
Thea Stilton and the Prince's Emerald



Thea Stilton and the Mystery on the Orient Express



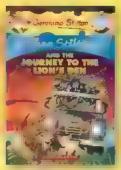
Theo Stilton and the Dancing Shadows



Thea Stilton and the Legend of the Fire Flowers



Thea Stifton and the Spanish Dance Mission



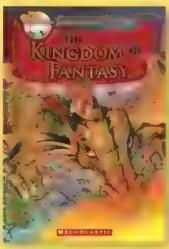
Thea Stilton and the Journey to the Lion's Den



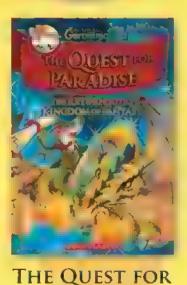
Thea Stilton and the Great Tulip Heist



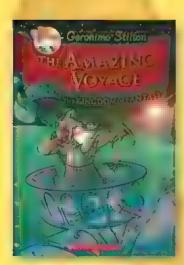
BLE Sure
to read all
my adventures
in the Kingdom
of Pankasya



THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY

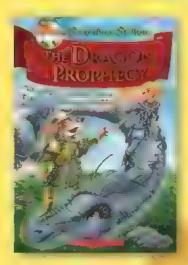


PARADISE:
THE RETURN TO THE
KINGDOM OF FANTASY



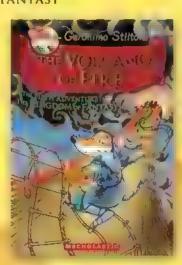
THE AMAZING VOYAGE:

THE THIRD ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE DRAGON PROPHECY:

THE FOURTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY

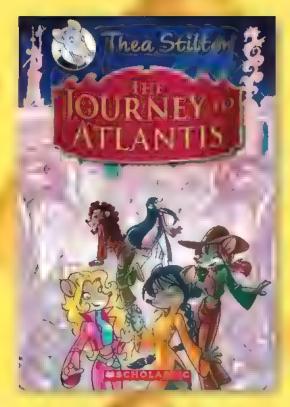


THE VOLCANO OF FIRE:

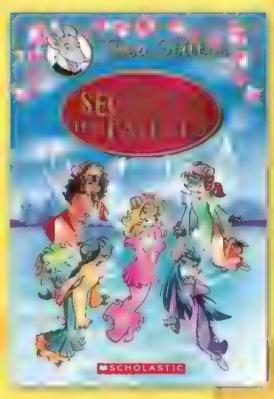
THE FIFTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



Check out
these very
special editions
featuring me
and the Thea
Sisters!



THE JOURNEY TO ATLANTIS



THE SECRET OF THE FAIRIES



CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR

I, Geronimo Stilton, have a lot of mouse friends, but none as spooky as my friend CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR! She is an enchanting and MYSTERIOUS mouse with a pet bat named Bitewing. YIKES I'm a real 'fraidy mouse, but even I think CREEPELLA and her family are AVACULTAN fascinating. I can't wait for you to read all about CREEPELLA in these famouse by funny and spectacularly spooky tales!



#4 Return of the



#5 Fright Nigh



Meet GERONIMO STILTONOOT

He is a cavemouse—Geronimo Stilton's ancient ancestor! He runs the stone newspaper in the prehistoric village of Old Mouse City. From dealing with dinosaurs to dodging meteorites, his life in the Stone Age is full of adventure!



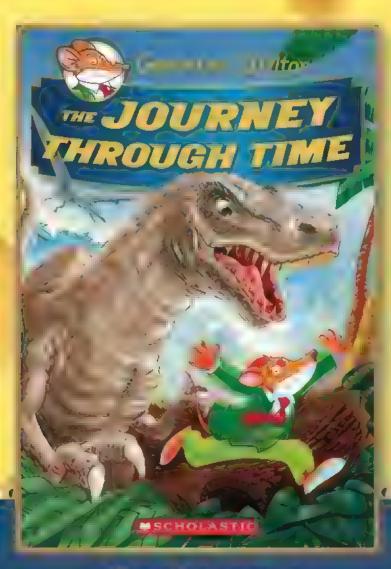








Join me and my friends on a journey through time in this very special edition!



THE JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

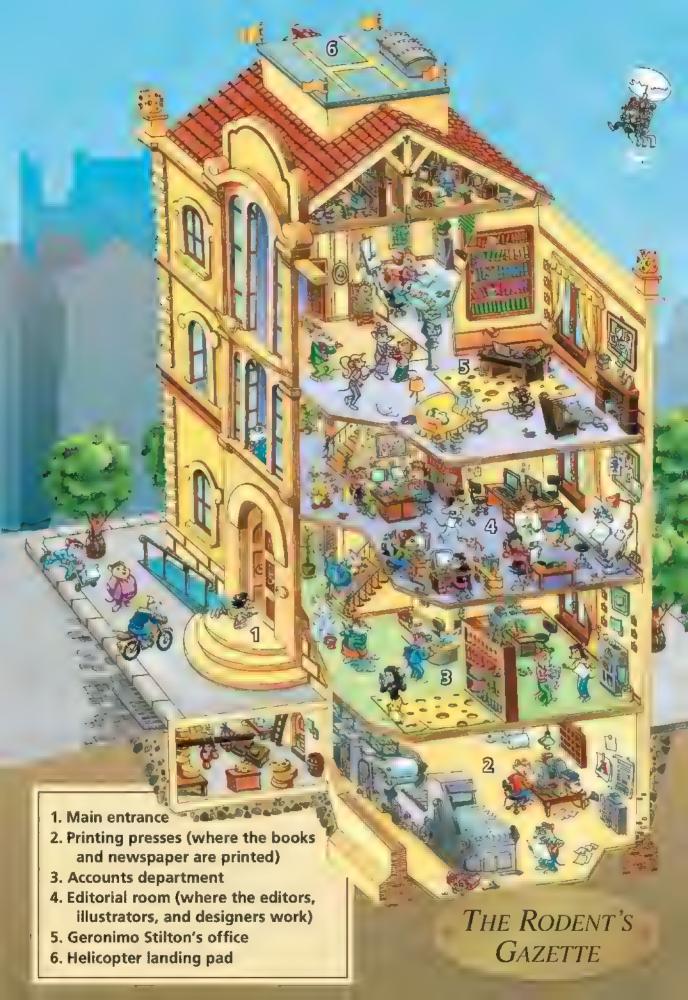


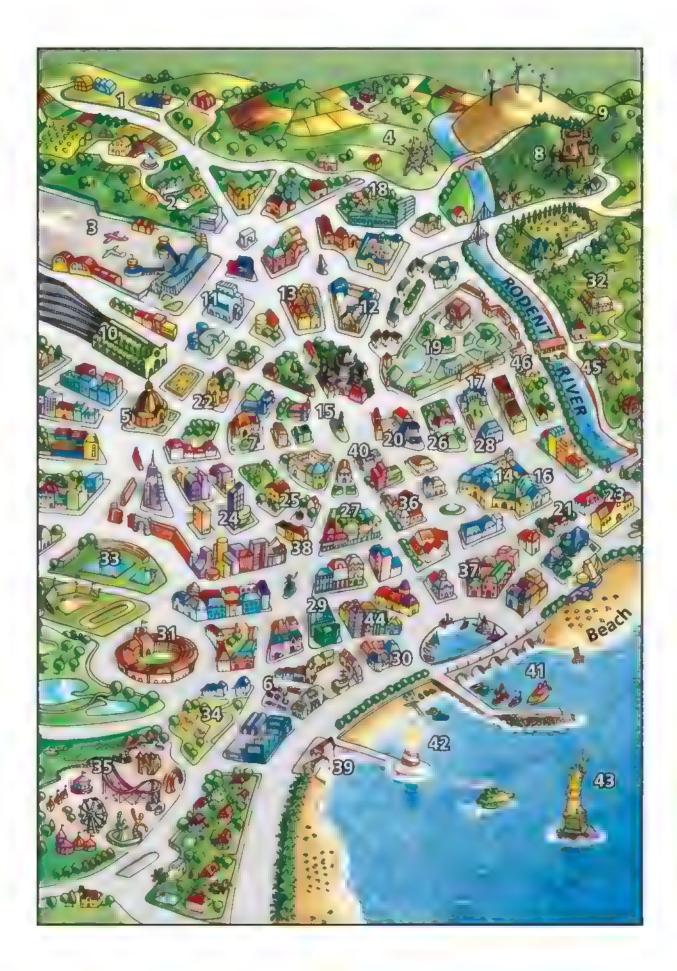
Born in New Mouse City, Mouse Island, **GERONIMO STILTON** is Rattus Emeritus of Mousomorphic Literature and of Neo-Ratonic Comparative Philosophy. For the past twenty years, he has been

running *The Rodent's Gazette*, New Mouse City's most widely read daily newspaper.

Stilton was awarded the Ratitzer Prize for his scoops on *The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid* and *The Search for Sunken Treasure*. He has also received the Andersen 2000 Prize for Personality of the Year. One of his bestsellers won the 2002 eBook Award for world's best ratlings' electronic book. His works have been published all over the globe.

In his spare time, Mr. Stilton collects antique cheese rinds and plays golf. But what he most enjoys is telling stories to his nephew Benjamin.





Map of New Mouse City

Industrial Zone 1. 24. The Daily Rat 2. **Cheese Factories** The Rodent's Gazette 25. 3. **Angorat International** 26. Trap's House **Fashion District** 27 **Airport** 4. WRAT Radio and 28. The Mouse House **Television Station** Restaurant **Cheese Market** 5. 29. **Environmental** 6. Fish Market **Protection Center** Town Hall **Harbor Office** 7. 30. 8. **Snotnose Castle** 31. **Mousidon Square** 9. The Seven Hills of Garden Mouse Island 32. **Golf Course Mouse Central Station** 33. Swimming Pool 10. **Trade Center** 34. Tennis Courts 11. Movie Theater **Curlyfur Island** 12. 35. 13. **Amousement Park** Gym 36. 14. **Catnegie Hall** Geronimo's House **Historic District** 15. **Singing Stone Plaza** 37. 16. The Gouda Theater 38. Public Library **Grand Hotel** 17. 39. Shipyard **Mouse General Hospital** 40. Thea's House 18. 19. **Botanical Gardens** 41. **New Mouse Harbor** 20. Cheap Junk for Less 42. **Luna Lighthouse** 43. The Statue of Liberty (Trap's store) **Aunt Sweetfur and** 21. 44. **Hercule Poirat's Office** Benjamin's House 45. **Petunia Pretty Paws's**

House

House

Grandfather William's

46.

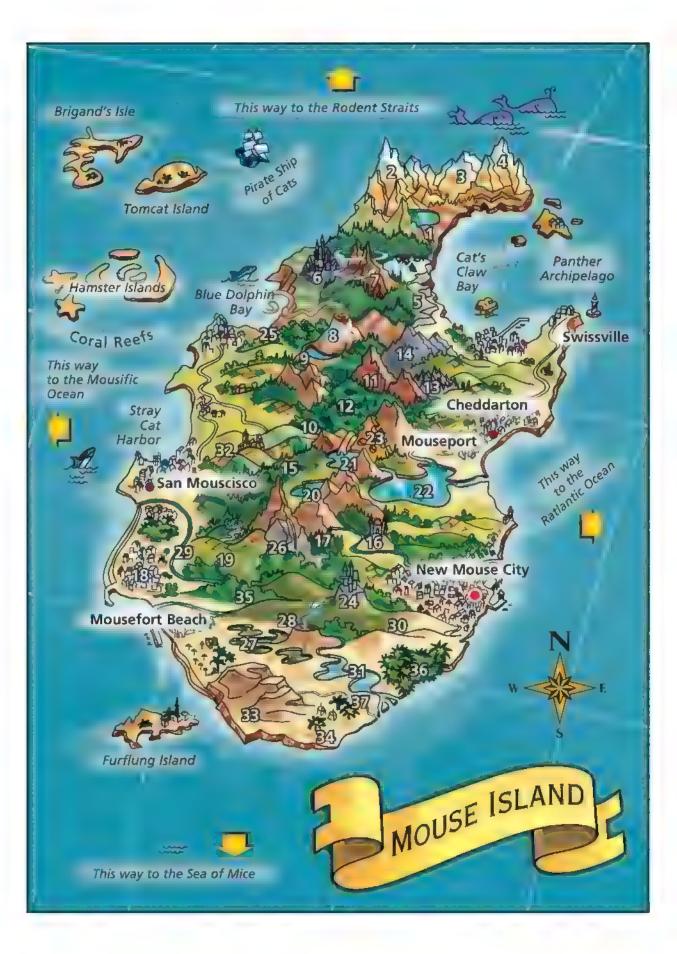
Mouseum of

Modern Art

University and Library

22.

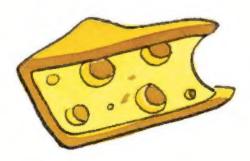
23.



Map of Mouse Island

- 1. Big Ice Lake
- 2. Frozen Fur Peak
- 3. Slipperyslopes Glacier
- 4. Coldcreeps Peak
- 5. Ratzikistan
- 6. Transratania
- 7. Mount Vamp
- 8. Roastedrat Volcano
- 9. Brimstone Lake
- 10. Poopedcat Pass
- 11. Stinko Peak
- 12. Dark Forest
- 13. Vain Vampires Valley
- 14. Goose Bumps Gorge
- 15. The Shadow Line Pass
- 16. Penny Pincher Castle
- 17. Nature Reserve Park
- 18. Las Ratayas Marinas
- 19. Fossil Forest
- 20. Lake Lake

- 21. Lake Lakelake
- 22. Lake Lakelakelake
- 23. Cheddar Crag
- 24. Cannycat Castle
- 25. Valley of the Giant Sequoia
- 26. Cheddar Springs
- 27. Sulfurous Swamp
- 28. Old Reliable Geyser
- 29. Vole Vale
- 30. Ravingrat Ravine
- 31. Gnat Marshes
- 32. Munster Highlands
- 33. Mousehara Desert
- 34. Oasis of the Sweaty Camel
- 35. Cabbagehead Hill
- 36. Rattytrap Jungle
- 37. Rio Mosquito



Dear mouse friends,
Thanks for reading, and farewell
till the next book.
It'll be another whisker-licking-good
adventure, and that's a promise!



Geronimo Stilton



GERONIMO STILTON



THEA



TRAP



BENJAMIN

Who is Geronimo Stilton?

That's me! I run a newspaper, but my true passion is writing adventure stories. Here in New Mouse City, the capital of Mouse Island, my books are all bestsellers! My stories are funny, fa-mouse-ly funny. They are whisker-licking-good tales, and that's a promise!

FIELD TRIP TO NIAGARA FALLS

Holey cheese, what an adventure! I was off to Niagara Falls on a field trip with my nephew Benjamin's class. It was a beautiful place — truly one of the most amazing sights I'd ever seen. But unfortunately, I was surrounded by mischievous young mouselets who seemed determined send me over the Falls in a barrel! Oh, would I ever make it back to Mouse Island alive?

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